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REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Applicant's representative notes with appreciation the indication that claims 28-31 are allowable over the cited art to date. Independent claims 1, 16, 27 and 35 have been amended to recite the allowable limitations as indicated by the Examiner. Accordingly, these amendments do not require a new search or any undue effort by the Examiner as no new subject matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-27 and 32-36 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 3-27 and 32-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Davis (US 6,061,605). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons. Davis does not disclose all limitations of the subject claims.

A single prior art reference anticipates a patent claim only if it expressly or inherently describes each and every limitation set forth in the patent claim. *Trintec Industries, Inc. v. Top-U.S.A. Corp.*, 295 F.3d 1292, 63 USPQ2d 1597 (Fed. Cir. 2002); *See Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). *The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim. Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). (emphasis added).

Independent claims 1, 16, 27 and 35

Applicants' representative respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn with respect to independent claims 1, 16, 27 and 35 (and the claims that depend there from) in view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner to the subject independent claims.

Independent claims 14 and 36

The claimed invention relates to inventory control of semiconductor wafers through the use of barcodes. In particular, claims 14 and 36 recite similar limitations, namely, *one or more*

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feedback systems adapted to receive feedback information from at least one of the one or more barcode readers, the one or more sorters and the one or more manufacturing devices, the one or more feedback systems adapted to generate control information that is fed forward to at least one of the one or more barcode readers, the one or more sorters and the one or more manufacturing devices. More particularly, for example, the invention as claimed allows a malfunctioning sorter to generate feedback information that initiates the re-routing of wafers to a sorter that is operating properly. Davis fails to disclose such a novel feature of the subject claims.

On page 3 of the Office Action (dated February 17, 2005), the Examiner contends that Davis substantially teaches the limitations of independent claims 14 and 36. However, at the portion of Davis indicated in the Office Action, the cited reference merely allows a support equipment manager server to monitor the status of the chemical and environmental systems for compliance with processing conditions executed by a host controller and notifies the host controller when the processing conditions are not attained. However, nowhere does the document teach the generation of control information based on the processing conditions that have been monitored. Consequently, Davis fails to teach or suggest the claimed limitation of *generating control information that is fed forward to at least one of the one or more barcode readers, the one or more sorters and the one or more manufacturing devices.* Thus, it is readily apparent that the cited reference does not disclose all limitations of applicants' claims.

Independent claim 32

Independent claim 32 recites *generating Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) data associated with one or more barcodes on one or more wafer... and transmitting the EDI data to one or more suppliers of the wafers.* As an example, this novel feature of the subject claim allows for the automatic submission of orders for new wafers and/or the cancellation of a previous order to a supplier. On page 3 of the subject Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the host controller taught by Davis is equivalent to the EDI systems of the claimed invention. Davis employs the host controller to oversee and control access to production personnel and the various industrial processes. However, nowhere does Davis disclose transmitting this production personnel and industrial process information to one or more suppliers of semiconductor wafers.

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Therefore, the cited reference fails to transmit *EDI data to one or more suppliers of the wafers*, as claimed.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is readily apparent that Davis does not teach the identical invention in as complete detail as is disclosed in the subject claims. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claim 2 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis in view of Guldi *et al.* This rejection is believed to be moot and should be withdrawn in view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter to independent claim 1 (from which claim 2 depends).

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CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [AMDP658US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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